



*Newsletter of the Ben White Memorial Nets founded 1938*  
*Hit and Bounce Net ~ Hit and Bounce Slow Net*  
**DECEMBER 2001**

**HBN MANAGER'S REPORT NOVEMBER**

Sis WD8DIN

Fifty-four different stations checked in during November making a total of 568 QNI. Traffic listed 349 and 336 cleared. Average time per session 32.4 minutes. Good report considering band conditions for most of the month. But then, we have top-notch operators.

Top dawgs in November were K2BCL QTC 74, QNI 27; KA8WNO QTC 72, QNI 28; K8LJG QTC 47, QNI 17 (hunting season- Hi); NG1A QTC 33, QNI 6; W2MTA QTC 16, QNI 24; W8RTN QTC 16, QNI 17; K8KV QTC 10, QNI 21. Other QNI of note: NR9K 27; WX4H 24; WD8DIN 24; N9KHD 23; N4ABM and N1DHT 21; K5UPN 19; KA5NNG, KK3F and WØGRW 18; AB4E and W3JKX 17; N3DE 14; KW1U and K8KFJ 13; WA3UNX 12; W4VLL 10 and KB9IOT 10.

Other QNI of note: NR9K 27; WX4H 24; WD8DIN 24; N9KHD 23; N4ABM 21; N1DHT 21; N4ABM 21; K5UPN 19; KA5NNG 18; KK3F 18; WØGRW 18; AB4E 17; W3JKX 17; N3DE 14; KW1U 13; K8KFJ 13; WA3UNX 12; W2VLL 10 and our mobile station, KB9IOT 10.

It was a very pleasant surprise to hear Lynne, WA1KKP (RI) again. Hope to hear her often. For those of you who don't know, she is one superb operator and NCS. Welcome to three NY stations- W2RBA Joe; WB2GTG, Bill and K2GCE, Bill.

Phil, WA2RUE will be traveling for a few months, but will try to QNI from time to time. Let's wish him a safe journey.

Due to a family emergency, I will be away during the last three weeks of December. N4ABM will NCS Thursdays and W2MTA on Fridays. Thank you Ole and Bill.

Thanks to all of you for your comittment to HBN and for making it a great traffic net.

Have a wonderful holiday. Health and happiness to you.

73 ARF, Sis

**FIFTY-SIX YEARS AGO- K2GWN**

I was a radioman on Kwajalein when MacArthur's message to the Japanese -[*insert*] came through our shack. The Japanese war crimes trials were held on Kwajalein while I was there. We sent the daily press releases. Pretty exciting stuff for an 18-year-old sailor. I was the commander's personal radio man [Cmdr Talbot] and talk about being in the right place at the right time!! I got to fly home with the test records of the bomber crews that would drop the test atom bomb on Bikini Atoll. The bombers took off from Kwajalein and made their tests until one crew was selected as the best. My trip was exciting and weird. Kwajalein to Johnson Island to Honolulu to Fairfield to D.C. to Lido Beach for discharge. Doesn't seem like 56 years ago, but it sure was. It seems like yesterday.

**HBN QNI NOVEMBER**

NG1A	FRED	MA	6	33
N1DHT	GEORGE	VT	21	8
WA1KKP	LYNNE	RI	1	
W1KX	BILL	ME	3	
W1PEX	DAN	NH	5	
KWIU	MARCIA	MA	13	2
K1WU	DALE	MA	4	7
K2BCL	GAIL	PA	27	74
W2EAG	MARK	MA	8	1
K2GCE	BILL	NY	1	
WB2GTG	BILL	NY	3	
K2GWN	JACK	NY	1	
W2MTA	BILL	NY	24	16
W2RBA	JOE	NY	1	
WB2RPW	GARY	NJ	2	
WA2YL	JANICE	FL	2	2
N3AO	CARTER	PA	2	4
N3DE	HARRY	MD	14	
KJ3E	AL	MD	1	
KK3F	PAT	MD	18	1
K3GHH	JOHN	MD	1	
W3JKX	EARL	PA	17	
WA3JXW	DUDLEY	PA	1	1
K3NNI	JOHN	MD	8	
N3QA	CAL	MD	8	2
W3QQ	CID	DE	1	3
K3RC	BOB	OH	5	
WA3UNX	DON	PA	12	3
N4ABM	OLE	VA	21	9
AA4AT	ART	VA	6	2
WA4DOX	OBIE	VA	7	2
AB4E	AB	NC	17	4
WX4H	MORT	FL	24	7
W4VFJ	CHAS	NC	4	
W4VLL	VIC	VA	10	
KA5NNG	MIKE	AR	18	6
K5UPN	JOE	TX	19	
WD8DHC	MIKE	WV	5	
WD8DIN	SIS	NC	24	
K8GA	JERRY	MI	1	4
KC8GMT	LORA	MI	1	
K8KFJ	GARIE	WV	13	
K8KV	BEN	MI	21	10
K8LJG	JOHN	MI	17	47
AA8PI	DON	MI	9	1
W8RTN	LEE	MI	17	16
KA8VWE	WALLY	OH	7	
KA8WNO	JACK	WV	28	72
KB8ZYY	RAY	MI	2	4
KB9IOT	DAVID	OH	10	5
NR9K	AD	PA	27	1
N9KHD	ANDY	WI	23	1
K9PUI	DICK	IN	4	
WØGRW	GEB	MN	18	

## K4VPI VA FIELD DAY 2001 - Obie

K4VPI team scored fifth nationally- here's how they did it:

When I was not needed at vaulting was between 9 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Sunday, so I managed to wolf down a Subway Cold-Cut-Trio - foot-long, of course - and arrived at the antenna lab at 9 p.m. to discuss the day's events leading up to the change in operational shifts. I met with Rich, KG4MFM, and handed out one of my highly sought-after eyeball-QSO cards. He was busy listening for satellite passes. Bill, KF4RGF, was pounding the brass - literally - we could hear everything he said since he was running a straight key and it was music to my ears. Mike, N4GU, was running the keyboard on 20 meters and logging one station while working another. He sure knows how to keep the rate high - HI. Nat, N4EL, was standing by, having finished his shift, and we talked of his returning in the a.m. to continue operating. Bill, W9KIC, stopped by with a gift of food..and took a few digipics before he departed.

After bidding farewell to KF4RGF, I got started around 9:35 on 40 meters(is there really any other band?) and wrote what I heard before typing it into the logging computer.

Josh came in before 11, I think, and he and I and Mike hatted a bit, planning on when Mike would return to resume his activities. Then Josh and I hunkered down for the long-haul. I pointed to the coffee pot and we strapped on the headphones and manipulated the paddles, working one station after another. Josh was running a Bencher iambic paddle and I had brought in my trusty Vibroplex "Vibrokeyer" single-lever paddle, the same one which had been my steadfast companion during my mobile-CW Jeep adventures. .. Looking at the screen, it was obvious that Josh was trying to catch up to me. I had already logged 43 QSOs when Josh started on 80 meters. Remembering how low our rate was in 1999 for 80 meters, I was confident that I could hang on to my lead, maybe even stretch it beyond the starting lead of 43 QSOs, but I was wrong. As I watched the monitor, often there were two, sometimes three - 80 meter QSOs being logged in between two 40 meter QSOs. HECK FIRE - Josh was not only NOT lagging behind, he was starting to close on my lead - DADBURN!

I had been working 40 meters for about two hours when Josh started, so I was already on my second trip up the band - working between 7,000 and 7,060 kHz, slowly turning the VFO until I heard the next station, and moving on only when I recognized a "worked" station, or sat for a few minutes trying to drop my call to a "deaf" station, so my rate was going to drop as long as I kept taking one more pebble from a pot of fixed size. Josh's pot was still pretty full, so he was still finding lots of pebbles to take out. ...

We're going to include the photo with our FD entry to ARRL. With luck, it will get published in QST, but if not, we'll provide a link so you can see what goes on behind the scenes at Field Day.

At break time, we would look at the total and discuss the strategy. The most important thing was to at least do as well as we did in 1999. To do that, I told Josh all we needed were 536 QSOs, since that was the number I recalled from 1999, and so

we kept an eye on the QSO counter, nearing our goal, and somewhere around 4:30 a.m., we hit the number, knowing we could stop, tear down everything and not be any the worse for our accomplishment, but we kept working stations, although our rate kept dropping - now there were two buckets that were nearly empty of pebbles, finally slowing to a near stop around 5:30 or so.

Mike returned about 5:45, and we took a break to discuss our achievement during the night shift. Our total was somewhere around 560 or 580, maybe higher, I was too groggy to remember for sure, but the logs will tell the true story. I worked 172 stations from 9:30 to 5:30, eight hours, so my rate was 21.5 per hour. Not bad, taking 10 minute breaks per hour. On 80 meters, all QSOs were Josh's and his counter was at 144. He worked from about 11:30 to 5:30, six hours, so his rate was 24 per hour. That means that our combined rate was nearly 46 QSOs per hour. Not bad for two ops running QRP, each one glued to ONE BAND, running CW ONLY. Josh started out 43 QSOs behind me (52 minus the 9 which were worked prior to my start at number 10) and finished only 28 QSOs behind me, so I must admit he was closing on me and would have passed me if it had stayed darker - at daylight, I would return to having the advantage because 80 meters would start closing and 40 meters would start returning to life!

Knowing that with still 8 hours to go we had already surpassed our 1999 finish, Josh and I departed, thanking Mike for the opportunity to help out at a VPI Field Day. We assembled a hodge-podge of rigs, some QRP and some not-QRP, but capable of being turned down to QRP transmit levels, and we operated, despite the odds, and finished more favorably than we anticipated.

In 2001 - there were just two rigs - not counting the VHF/UHF/satellite setup. Two Ten-Tec OMNI VI+, one owned by Nat, N4EL, and the other by Mike, N4GU. These top-of-the-line USA manufactured rigs have such outstanding features that make it the ideal type of station to use for a QRP Field Day operation. They were both turned down to 5.000 watts.

If you are just one person, operating in your backyard, using your favorite QRP rig, it doesn't matter much what kind of rig you use since you won't be bothered by multi-station problems, such as co-station interference, harmonic radiation, etc. As a team, running two stations, the concept of using identical high-end radios is a sensible approach to a successful effort. The key to operating QRP is not just to be heard, but to hear. As the well-known adage goes, "If you can hear them, you can work them." Reducing your typical 100 watt transmit level by 13 dB does not eliminate the possibility of being heard, but reducing your typical 0.5 microvolt receiver sensitivity by even 3 dB can seriously affect your ability to hear weak stations. Not everyone who operates QRP is a quintessential purist, or even catholic (inside joke).

Highlights? Working K4IX at 3-something a.m. I asked if Bus was handy and was told that he was away sawing logs. Working KH6J on 40 meter QRP CW. I heard them calling on 7,001.2 and told Josh I had a KH6 I was trying to work. Time

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after time, I sent K4VPI, but they couldn't hear me. Josh looked over rather incredulously, so I pulled the headphone plug out and there they were, "CQ FD DE KH6J FD K". His eyes twinkled as he heard the CW music issue forth. "Go get them!" he shouted. "I'm

trying!" I shouted back. Without the aid of headphones, I cranked out "K4VPI" again, each time they called. Finally, they got a partial. I kept sending until they got it fully and we QSL'd each other's exchange. Josh and I just laughed our heads off and gave a high-five. After departing, I showered, changed clothes, and returned to day three of Vaulting Extravaganza 2001. The two oldest kids, Timothy and Taylor, each tested for their Trot Medal, and passed, so they were beaming all weekend. Now they have left the legions of "unrated" trot vaulters and now have to compete with other medal-holders. The game just gets harder for them. Kind of like our K4VPI QRP CW Field Day Operations - HI HI. Do you have a Field Day 2001 story to share? Please pass it along! 73, Obie

### **Happy Birthday!**

**Celebrate with these arfers in JANUARY: 12 KK3F; 16 N3ON; 23 KA5NNG; 25 K8KV; 25 AA8PI and K8KV; 28 W3KOD and W3QQ; 31 K4MTX  
FEBRUARY: 1 WD8DIN and WA3JXW; 22 WA3QNT; 24 W8BEZ; 27 N3COR**

### **REAL MEN USE RED NAIL POLISH**

Back about 25 years ago, when I was working as a cop and carried a 45 automatic pistol most of my waking hours, I don't recollect that ANYBODY ever questioned the garish bright red (aka West Virginia Red) nail polish I bought to dab on my front sight so as to make it easier to see. Hi. -KA5NNG

### **RST 599**

Two recent experiences combined to prompt this little note. First, on one of my regular weekly skeds, my good friend W5UXH informed me that there was something wrong with my signal. My transmitted signal was randomly shifting in frequency, but there were no symptoms in receive. A few days later, I was poking around the 40 meter Novice segment and heard a station calling CQ with a really awful tone.

I was still debating with myself whether or not to answer him and tell him about it when another station answered him. As I continued my "lurking", they exchanged signal reports, and the station with the really bad tone received the usual 599. (!)

Two things occurred to me. First, that because of the fact that most of us are running transceivers

nowadays, honest signal reports are of far greater importance than in the days when we ran "separates" and routinely monitored our transmitted signal. Your transmitted signal can be really bad and there is no way for you to know about it until some other station tells you. (I keep remembering that old TV commercial about bad breath that went something like: "even your best friends won't tell you". Hi.) The second thing was that it seems be quite common for stations to NOT give an honest signal report. I've even heard a few situations where a station suspected that he had a problem and solicited reports and still got "optimistic" answers.

Perhaps we should all try to make our signal reports as honest and accurate as we can....doing otherwise is really a dis-service to the stations having problems with their radios. Also, maybe we ought to encourage others to do the same, especially newcomers to the hobby who are wont to mimic so much of what they perceive to be "good operating

procedures", and unfortunately by definition, they don't know enough to separate the good from the bad.  
de KA5NNG

<b>HBSN 3714KHz 7:30 AM Daily</b>		
Sunday	VE3DTR	John
Monday	W2MTA	Bill
Tuesday	NR9K	Ad
Wednesday	WB5ZJN	Sam
Thursday	N3ON	Chuck
Friday	K2BCL	Gail
Saturday	N3COR	Don
<b>HBN 7042 KHz 8:30 AM Daily Alt 7114 KHz</b>		
Sunday	W2MTA	Bill
Monday	KA8WNO	Jack
Tuesday	WA3UNX	Don
Wednesday	N4ABM	Ole
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	
Friday	WD8DIN	Sis
Saturday	WA4DOX	Obie

## TRAFFIC CALL

C. L. Berry WD8DIN  
1182 Eastbrook Lane  
Hendersonville, NC 28792-6411  
arfer@hitandbounce.net  
injun20@hotmail.com